

STAFF REPORT

To: Mayor and City Council Date: October 6, 2015
From: Tammy Hooper, Chief of Police Prepared by: Sgt. Fowler
Via: Gary Jackson, City Manager
Subject: DWI Task Force Grant Continuation Year 3

Summary Statement: The consideration of: 1) a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program (NCGHSP) for a grant to fund year 3 of the multi-jurisdictional DWI Task Force involving the Asheville Police Department (APD) and Buncombe County Sheriff's Office (BCSO); and 2) a budget amendment in the amount of \$411,331.00 to establish a budget for the third year of the grant.

Review: In Asheville and Buncombe County, the number of impaired drivers has been a serious concern to citizens and law enforcement for many years. Since 2010, there have been 4,434 DWI arrests by Buncombe County law enforcement agencies, more than 1,024 traffic collisions that have involved impaired drivers and 18 fatal collisions as a result of an .08 Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) or higher.

In reviewing these statistics, the NCGHSP contacted APD and suggested a DWI Task Force with a goal of reducing the number of DWI related collisions, injuries and deaths in Asheville and Buncombe County, as well as educating the public on impaired driving and its effects. A request for continuation of year 3 of a 4 year grant in the amount of \$411,331 in FY 2016 that would cover the of cost, to pay for six officers on DWI enforcement and training. These six officers would conduct targeted DWI enforcement throughout Asheville and Buncombe County and conduct DWI, seat-belt and night-time traffic safety checking stations throughout the County. Under this grant, APD would supply one sergeant and three officers while BCSO would supply two officers. The appointed officers would also hold educational events at local high schools that would focus on teen driving safety, impaired driving, distracted driving and seat-belt compliance. The City of Asheville and Buncombe County are responsible for a total grant match of 30% or \$123,399. The City's share of this match will total \$80,197 in FY 2016.

This action complies with the City Council's Strategic Operating Plan in the focus area of Fiscal Responsibility and Safe by leveraging NCGHSP grant funds to acquire equipment and personnel to actively enforce DWI laws and educate the public on the dangers of impaired driving.

Pros:

- NCGHSP grant funds used to pay for training and pay 70% of the costs of salary and benefits to officers participating in the DWI Task Force.
- Potential reduction in impaired driving collisions, injuries and deaths throughout Asheville and Buncombe County.

Cons:

- Funding from NCGHSP is evaluated annually and not fully guaranteed beyond the first year.

- In year three (3), the City of Asheville will be required to match 30% of the personnel costs. The grant funding will incrementally decrease each year and after the four-year funding period, 100% of the personnel costs will be the City of Asheville's responsibility.

Fiscal impact: As noted above, the general fund impact in FY 2015-16 is \$80,197. This amount is already included in the Police Department's adopted FY 2015-16 budget. At the end of the grant, the general fund impact would be approximately \$267,325 per year to permanently add one sergeant and three officers to the APD roster, and to provide their equipment as needed. The chart below outlines the general fund impact over the remainder of the grant.

Year 3	FY 2016	\$80,197
Year 4	FY 2017	\$133,662
Year 5	FY 2018	\$267,325

Recommendation: City staff recommends City Council adopt: 1) a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract and accept grant funds through the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program; and 2) a budget amendment in the amount of \$411,311 to establish a budget for the second year of the grant.

Attachments:

- 1) Resolution
- 2) Budget
Amendment

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT AND
RECEIVE GRANT FUNDS UNDER THE NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY
SAFETY PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City has the authority pursuant to N.C.G.S. 160A-17.1 to apply for and receive grants from the State and to enter into contracts for the administration of said grants; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program has invited the City of Asheville to submit a grant contract in the amount of \$411,331 for the implementation of year three (3) of the DWI Task Force that would enforce DWI laws and provide community education on traffic safety issues in Asheville and Buncombe County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT;

The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program, for a grant in the amount of \$411,331 to continue year three of the DWI Task Force in Asheville and Buncombe County.

Read, approved, and adopted this 6th day of October, 2015

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY